



9. PUBLIC SAFETY

CHAPTER 9: PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC SAFETY

People and businesses choose to locate in cities because of the value they provide. An extremely critical reason people congregate in cities is for safety, whether it is safety from crime, protection from fire or quick access to immediate medical care in case of an emergency. These assets and amenities may be provided by the private sector (for example, private hospitals and medical complexes), by non-profits (for example, public hospitals or districts), or by the public sector (for example, police, fire, code enforcement, animal control and other services). Public safety is one of the most important functions that cities provide. It is essential to the quality of life residents' desire and to the business environment a company seeks.

As Weatherford plans for its future, it must ensure that the City's own operations can provide an adequate level of service to meet the public safety needs for which it has responsibility. Also, the City must coordinate with other entities that provide public safety services to maintain the quality of life residents and businesses desire. This Public Safety Element of the General Plan provides direction for construction, maintenance and operation of public safety operations

consistent with the Plan's Guiding Principles and to provide the service needed and desired for the future development shown in Chapter 4's Place Type Diagram.

Where available, the growth plans adopted by the boards of these public safety agencies are summarized. These details are found in master plans for each of individual organizations and are referenced in this document. They should be reviewed for more specific information. This Plan Element can be amended as master plans and information on the other public safety services become available or as the existing plans are revised and updated. As this General Plan is implemented, all public safety agencies should participate in planning, studies and other implementation programs so ensure that their services can be provided effectively as the community grows.



PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE
CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2018

The Weatherford Police Department is a professional and progressive public safety agency committed to providing quality services to our community. The Department is directed to preserve law and order and enforce our society's



laws and ordinances. It is the Department's mission to create a high quality of life and provide a safe, secure and sanitary environment for the citizens of this community.

Our mission is to enrich our community through exceptional professionalism, collaboration, and commitment to proactive policing.

OVERVIEW

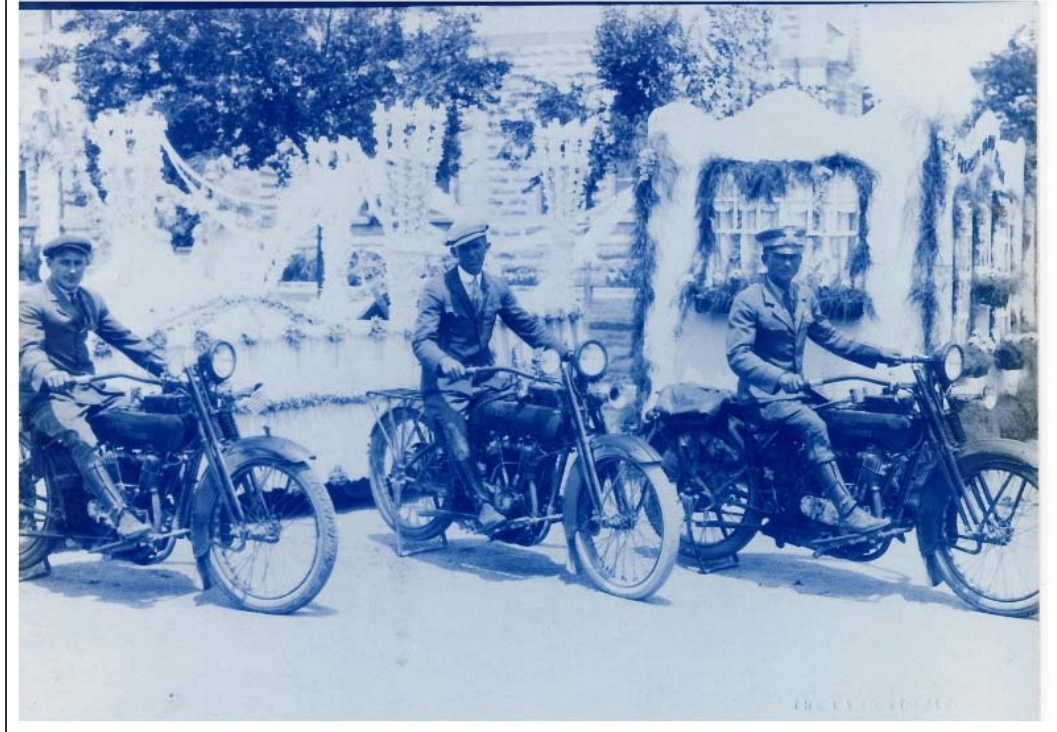
The Department receives exceptional support from the community we serve. In the 2017 Weatherford Community Survey, 84% of the respondents were "very satisfied" or

"satisfied" with the overall quality of police services.

Comparatively, only 62% of the respondents in Texas and only 70% of the respondents across the United States reported being "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the overall quality of the police services in their community. In the same survey, police services were identified as the most important city service to provide and were recommended as a top priority for investment over the next two years. Despite the current level of support and satisfaction from our community, the Department acknowledges the necessity to be a responsive and agile organization as the needs of our community grow and transform. This section of the City of Weatherford General Plan is not intended to be an all-encompassing strategic plan, but rather an overview of the various departmental plans and how the Department fits into the city-wide general plan. The department is led by Chief Lance Arnold, who is the seventeenth official Chief of Police since its inception in 1919. The Weatherford Police Department is currently comprised of 58 commissioned police officers and 20 civilian employees. In 2016, the Department was recognized by the Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices Recognition Program. There are less than 200 recognized Texas law enforcement agencies.



HISTORY



The Weatherford Police Department had a very humble beginning around the turn of the last century. Records show a single paid night patrolman from about 1905 until the spring of 1919. At that time the night patrolman, B.R. Barker, was appointed as Weatherford's first Chief of Police. By 1951, the department evolved into an eight-officer department including Chief Bert Reynolds. The department's only two cars were shared by all eight officers.

DIVISIONS AND PERSONNEL



The Department is divided into five divisions:

Administration – Chief of Police, Deputy Chief, Police Planner, Professional Standards Sergeant, and Police Finance Specialist

Patrol – Uniformed Patrol

Investigations – Criminal Investigations, Special Crimes, and Task Force Officers

Support Services – Property and Evidence, Police Records, and Communications

Community Services – Community Policing, School Resource Officers, Court Bailiff, and Reserve Officers

POLICE SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

WEATHERFORD CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (WCPAAA)

Weatherford Police Department began offering a Citizen Police Academy in 1992. Graduates of the first Academy expressed an interest in an ongoing program of instruction and support.



In January 1995, eighteen graduates of previous academies became charter members of the

Weatherford Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association (WCPAAA). The purpose of this organization is not only to promote a positive image of law enforcement, but also support and assist the Weatherford Police Department when requested.

PARKER COUNTY RESPONDING TO EVERY ASSAULT AND CRISIS TEAM (REACT)

The Parker County Responding to Every Assault and Crisis Team (REACT) is a victim-centered organization developed to assist those who have been affected by trauma or violent crime. REACT came to life in 1999 when Parker County law enforcement agencies, Freedom House, and the Parker County Co-Op came together to focus on the need in Parker County to provide support to victims who have suffered a traumatic experience. The group organized extensive training for volunteers to create a team that could respond at the request of any Parker County law enforcement agency to assist with the needs of victims and provide on-scene crisis intervention.

PASTORS ALLIANCE DISASTER RESPONSE & EMERGENCY (PADRE)

In order to fully engage the faith-based community in our Community Policing concept, a Pastors Alliance Disaster Response & Emergency (PADRE) program has been developed to support our agency. PADRE members are called upon to pray for police department members, to build relationships with law enforcement and other Weatherford organizations, be available on a voluntary basis and ride with officers on patrol to view and evaluate issues within the

community, and be available for crisis interaction involving our community members with follow-up ministerial services.

PARKER COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS

The Parker County Crime Stoppers program is a non-profit organization led by local citizens against crime. Parker County Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards of up to \$1000 to persons providing anonymous information that leads to the felony arrest of criminals and fugitives. Information is received through anonymous Crime Stoppers tips that are received through a secure tips line or through a secure web connection manned by a professional program coordinator. <http://www.parkercountycrimestoppers.com/sitemenu.aspx?ID=344&>



COMMUNITY POLICING

Simply stated, community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

The Department is moving into a new era of community policing and seeks to maximize the concepts of community partnerships, organizational transformation, and problem solving. Community partnerships include: community members and groups, other government agencies, nonprofits, and private businesses. Organizational transformation includes: agency management, organizational structure, personnel, and technology. Problem solving includes: scanning, analysis, response, assessment, and using the crime triangle.



STANDARDS FOR SERVICE

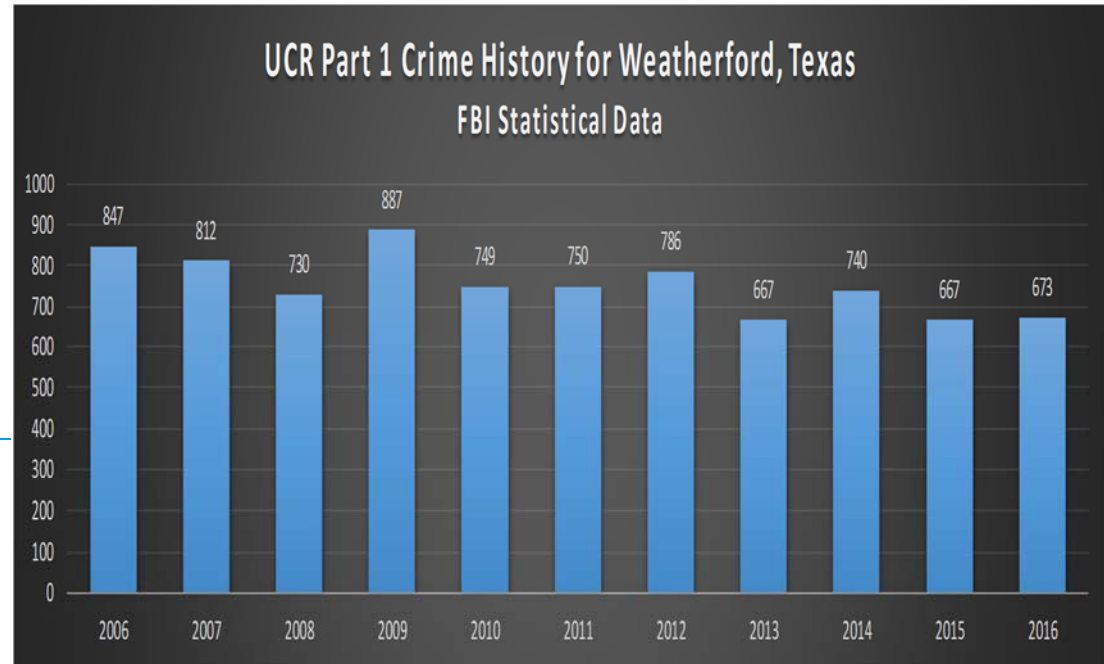
A police department faces a challenge when evaluating the quality or effectiveness of its services. Most people associate a crime rate with the level of safety in a community or area. Yet a crime rate reflects many factors in addition to the quality of police service – the community's demographics, the sort of businesses and property located in the area, income and property values, national trends and other factors. Since crime rates measure only reported crimes, better police work that leads to more crimes being reported, additional arrests and enforcement can actually cause the crime rate to increase if these crimes were previously not reported. As a smaller community, Weatherford enjoys a reasonably low crime rate. Weatherford was determined to be one of the "50 Safest Cities in Texas" in 2017 according to the Safewise Report - <http://www.safewise.com/blog/safewise-50-safest-cities-texas/>

TRENDS

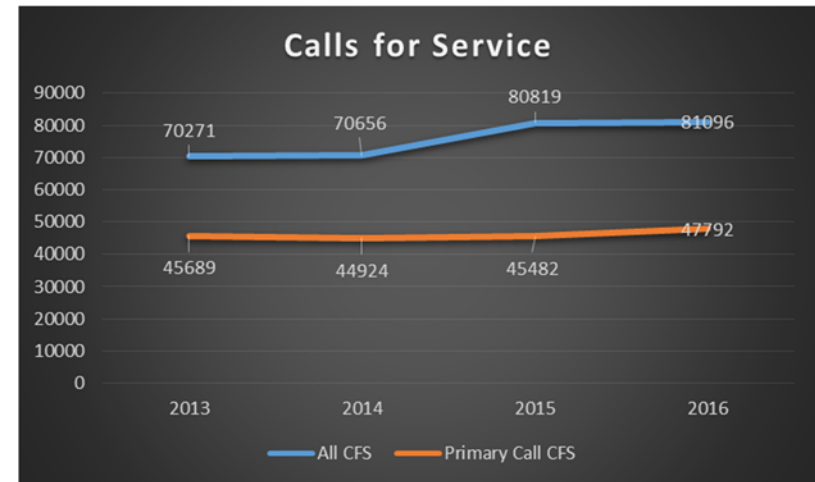
Part I Crimes are defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and are used to measure the level and scope occurring throughout the nation. Part I

Crimes include: Criminal Homicide, Forcible Rape, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson. The number of Part I Crimes in Weatherford have remained stable and slightly decreased over the last 10 years. Other measures frequently used to evaluate police service include calls for service per capita, response times and percentage of crimes solved.

The Department operates a Public Safety Access Point (PSAP). A PSAP is a call center answering calls to an



emergency telephone number for police, fire, and emergency medical services. Police Certified Telecommunicators staff the call center at the Police Department 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. In addition to answering incoming emergency telephone calls, they also dispatch police and fire personnel to calls for service. Self-initiated activity is also recorded as a call for service. Calls for service since 2013 have increased slightly each year. In the accompanying chart, Primary Call CFS represents each actual incident or call while All CFS accounts for all units that responded to that incident including back-up personnel. The Department expects to experience a continued increase in calls for service over the coming years. Vehicle accidents continue to trend upward while traffic



citations continue a downward trend. The Police Department is working to implement a Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) that address both crime and traffic issues. DDACTS integrates location-based crime and traffic data to establish effective and efficient methods for deploying law enforcement and other resources. Using geo-mapping to identify areas with high incidences of crime and crashes, DDACTS uses traffic enforcement strategies that play a dual role in fighting crime and reducing crashes and traffic violations. Drawing on the deterrent of highly visible traffic enforcement and the knowledge that crimes often involve the use of motor vehicles, the goal of DDACTS is to reduce the incidence of crime, crashes, and traffic violations across the country.

FACILITIES

In 1997, the Weatherford Police Department moved from a 5,700-square foot dilapidated building located in Weatherford's downtown business district to its current location on 801 Santa Fe Drive. The current facility is approximately 15,000 square feet. A Facility Needs Assessment was conducted for all City of Weatherford facilities in 2014. The recommendation from the assessment states in part: *"The police station, while currently adequate for the next five to ten years with some minor renovations, will require a relocation to meet 2033 goals and staffing requirements. The current location does not meet current standards for locations of critical facilities best practices of its proximity to the 100-year FEMA flood plain, the lack of secure*

parking at the current site, limited opportunity for expansion at the current location, and thoroughfare access issues."



The assessment recommended a new and relocated facility of 32,500 square feet. The assessment also recognized issues with the existing Municipal Court space and the Fire Administration Space. One solution to address several of these issues is to evaluate the need for a new Public Safety Facility that would house the Police Department, Municipal Court, Fire Administration, and the Emergency Management Office. The Weatherford City Council has identified Police Department Revitalization and Expansion as a high priority and is considering relocation to a new site from its current location with sufficient room for expansion.

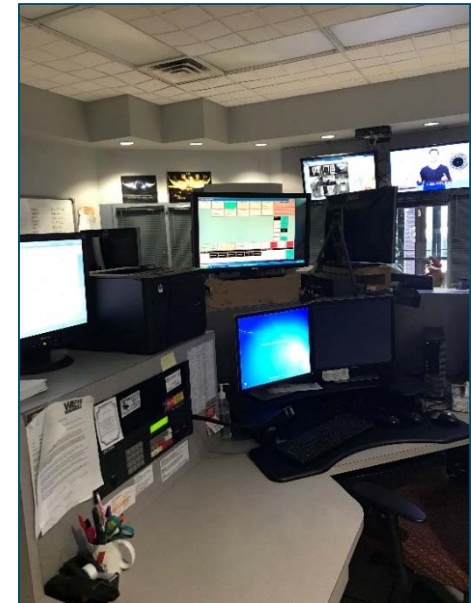
Another identified facility need that impacts several City departments is the need for a training facility. Currently, the Weatherford Police Department utilizes a firearms range in Mineral Wells for all firearms training and uses their driving track for emergency vehicle operation training. The Department needs a suitable training area for large classroom training and community meetings. Continuing education, especially in critical areas, is vital to officer and community safety and the continued professionalism of department personnel. An opportunity exists for the Department to collaborate with other City departments as well as Weatherford College, Weatherford Independent School District, and other public safety agencies to become a leader in quality public safety training for the entire region.

Currently, the infrastructure and equipment of the Public Safety Dispatch System limit the ability to operate effectively and efficiently in the future. Moreover, the Weatherford City Council identified centralizing the 911 System and improving radio systems as a high priority. Steps are underway to begin a phased approach to improving the capabilities of the radio system.

POLICE POLICIES AND FUTURE STRATEGIC PLAN

Weatherford's police service provides excellent service for a community of this size. As the City continues to grow, its population is expected to grow dramatically. Businesses and numbers of jobs will increase as well. The area to be served will expand too, so police officers will need to travel farther to respond to calls. Maintaining adequate police service over time will be critical to maintaining the positive perception of Weatherford as a safe city. The Weatherford Police Department is embarking on new strategic planning efforts under the new Chief Lance Arnold. They expect the strategic plan to be complete in early 2018 and will summarize that plan in amendments to this General Plan. Their new vision for the Department is: "We shall forge a path toward becoming the safest city in Texas and establishing ourselves as a leader within the law enforcement community."

PS1. Weatherford will continue to deploy its police department assets to achieve established service level standards and serve the community as effectively as possible given available resources.



- PS2. The Department will use its resource planning processes to identify investments and resources needed to meet future police service demands generated by the pattern of development anticipated by this General Plan and its Place Type Diagram.
- PS3. The Police Department will periodically evaluate its staff expertise, procedures, equipment and other resources in light of the mix of calls being received and any changes in the demographic characteristics of the community it serves.

POLICE ACTIONS OR INVESTMENTS (OVERALL PUBLIC SAFETY AT END OF CHAPTER)

The following actions are a general summary of the Police Department's plans and their key projects, actions and investments. Some of those actions are noted as the Department's response to the growth plans and place types contained in this general plan and are color coded as either **Short Term** or **Long Term**. All others are important to the Department. This list is not all-inclusive, and the reader is encouraged to contact the Police Department or refer to the documents listed below.

Action 9.21 Technology/Data-Driven Approaches. Adopt strategy of Data Driven Approaches to Crime/Traffic Safety (DDACTS)

Action 9.22 New CAD and Records Management System. Evaluate the need for a new CAD and Records Management

System in order to obtain better data to use for Community Policing and DDACTS Programs.

Action 9.23 Neighborhood Watch Groups. Significantly increase the number of Neighborhood Watch Groups and participation in those groups from residents.

Action 9.24 Youth Programs. Explore and implement sustainable Youth Programs.

Action 9.25 School Resource Officers. Assess the need for additional School Resource Officers in Weatherford ISD.

Action 9.26 Other/New Technology. Explore other technology to increase community engagement and feedback and support COP/DDACTS projects.



CONTACT INFORMATION

CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2018

Responsible Department Police Department
Web Page

817.598.4310 police@weatherfordtx.gov
<http://www.weatherfordtx.gov/17/Police-Department>

FULL ELECTRONIC COPY OF PLANS AND DOCUMENTS SUMMARIZED IN THIS CHAPTER:

Strategic Plan (to be inserted upon adoption)

Insert URL at future date

PUBLIC SAFETY – FIRE

CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2018

The Weatherford Fire Department protects and serves the City of Weatherford and Parker County Emergency Services District (ESD) #3 through various programs and efforts related to emergency prevention, preparedness, and response. Department members strive for continual improvement through ongoing training and professional development. The department's mission is simply to "deliver superior services to all." Its vision is to develop our firefighters to be leaders in their careers and communities.

OVERVIEW

The Fire Department provides fire suppression, rescue, and first-responder emergency medical services. In addition to emergency services, the Fire Department provides a variety of non-emergency services focused on promoting fire and life safety initiatives. Examples of these initiatives include: fire and arson investigation, fire inspection and code enforcement, and fire and life safety education programs throughout the community.

The Fire Department plays a major role in the City's overall Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system by working closely with LifeCare EMS. The Fire Department provides first-responder emergency medical response on life-threatening

incidents within the City of Weatherford and ESD #3. At a minimum, our firefighters are trained and certified to deliver basic life support, and our fire apparatus are equipped with emergency medical equipment, including automatic external defibrillators (AEDs). Our tiered EMS system includes cooperation with LifeCare EMS, which provides advanced life support and patient transports. This approach allows firefighters to ride along in the ambulance, assisting with

medical treatments for critical patients on the way to the hospital.

Other emergency services provided by the Fire Department include various rescue services, such as truck company operations and vehicle extrication. Additionally, the Fire Department maintains two "special operations teams" for dive rescue/recovery and wildland firefighting.



Although the department does not have a formal Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Team, the Fire Department responds to hazardous materials incidents and provides oversight for the proper cleanup and disposal of hazardous substances.

FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

1854 – Firefighting with Buckets. Two years before Weatherford became a city, the frontier settlement organized a Fire Brigade that used large barrels of water, placed with buckets in strategic points in the town. If a building caught fire, volunteers could go to the nearest barrel, form a line of men, and pass buckets of water to put out the fire.

1878 – Chartered Department and Equipment Enhancement. The Weatherford Fire Department was officially chartered on April 2, 1878. Later that year, a horse-drawn Hook and Ladder truck was purchased. This was the latest and best-equipped piece of firefighting equipment at the time. It sported a 45-foot wooden ladder and was capable of reaching the tallest buildings in town. The truck was also outfitted with small ladders, long ropes and poles with hooks, axes, crowbars, and large leather water buckets.

Early 1880's – New Iron Firehouse. A new corrugated iron firehouse was erected in the 100 block of Palo Pinto Street to house all the rigs. A bell on top of the building sound

ed a fire alarm rather than the earlier method - the firing of six shooters and Winchesters.

1890's - Station and System Enhancements. A two-story, wooden structure replaced the old iron structure in 1895. It had sleeping quarters and a meeting place that was also used by the City Council. As the City grew, the bell was replaced with a louder "air whistle." Also that year, the City began constructing water lines and plugs to replace the water barrels and cisterns.



1898 –1915 Horses – John & Dave, Rex & Larry, Bob and John. Up until 1898, the department had to borrow horses to pull the volunteer Fire Department rigs to fires. A pair of large gray horses, John and Dave, were purchased to pull the fire apparatus but were also used by the Street Department. They would often be blocks away and valuable time was lost getting to the fire. Rex and Larry, a new team of horses dedicated to fire duty were obtained and stalls were added to the station with harness hangers near the Hose Wagon. The



most notable horses were a big black matched team named Bob and John. The horses seemed almost human and, at the sound of the fire alarm, both would take their places at the Fire truck, nose their

way into their collars, and wait until the driver took hold of the reins. They are pictured in August 1913 harnessed to Combination Hose and Ladder No. 1 with Driver Kitt Thomas at the reins, the last team driver and the first motorized truck driver.

1910's and 1920's – New Fire Station and Equipment. A larger, more modern, two-story brick building replaced the old wooden two-story Fire Station on Palo Pinto Street in 1911. The first motorized truck was an American La France acquired in 1914 which used chemicals to pressurize the tank and force water out. Shortcomings of the chemical tank were immediately discovered, so it was replaced with a Triple Combination Pumper truck from American LaFrance. The 1914 truck LaFrance was traded in on a new LaFrance (below) which the department still has today. It was last used in 1951 at the Kuteman Building fire.



Firemen were put on the City payroll during the 1920's to protect the citizens of the community and to keep the trucks and equipment in good running order. In 1924, a pair of consecutive serial-numbered Stutz Triple Combination Pumpers were added to the department. That year, one of the Stutz trucks drove late at night to Mineral Wells to fight a large blaze downtown, getting there in record time.



1930's through 1960's – Continued Expansion and Improvement.

A new City Hall/Fire Station was built in 1933 on the property donated by the Fire Department at 119 Palo Pinto Street, just 50 feet west of the 1911 station location. Additional firefighters were placed "On Duty" on a 24-hour basis, and new equipment provided improved service to the community. In 1955, a new American LaFrance Engine took its place next to the old and tired Stutz Engines. The Stutz Engines were used until 1963 when they were replaced by a new American LaFrance Engine. One was sold and the remaining Stutz and the 1917 American LaFrance ended up in The Texas Fireman's Museum in Grand Prairie.

1970's and 1980's – Increased Professionalism. In 1972, the Department employed nine Firemen and a Fire Marshal, as well as having the services of 45 volunteer Firemen. The volunteer ranks declined due to the demands of everyday life

and regular jobs. The first Official full-time paid Fire Chief, George Teague, was hired in 1984. Under the Chief's leadership, an aggressive and well-trained department developed. Incident responses began to increase and responsibilities were added with the institution of First Responder and Hazardous Material Response Programs. The Department, in conjunction with the National Fire Safety Council, began teaching Fire Prevention in the Pre-K and Kindergarten levels of the public school system. In 1985, a new Station 1 was built at 122 South Alamo Street.

The two historic fire trucks were returned to Weatherford and the 1917 LaFrance is displayed at station #1 in running condition as shown at a recent Bankhead celebration. The 1927 Stutz is displayed at station #3 and is being restored to running condition. Today they are part of community holiday traditions and events.



1990's until Today – Further Expansion. With the opening of two additional fire stations, Station 2 in the late nineties and Station 3 in 2001, the Fire Department saw rapid increase in paid staffing. By the mid-2000's, the Fire Department was comprised of 47 paid members, with a small compliment of volunteers, now referred to as reserves. In 2007, the Fire Department added nine positions for the new Fire Station #4, built to serve the City's west side at 902 W. Park. In 2013, the City entered into an agreement to become the primary emergency services provider for Parker County ESD #3. Through this agreement, the City closed its underutilized Fire Station 2 at the lake, relocating the staffing to a fire station within the City of Hudson Oaks. This agreement proved beneficial to the City by improving overall emergency response times, adding three positions to the Department, and gaining the use of multiple ESD #3 owned vehicles.

SERVICE AREA

Exhibit 9.1 shows the current service area for the Weatherford Fire Department. It includes all area in the incorporated city, as well as Parker County Emergency Services District (ESD) #3. The current Fire Department service area is approximately 100 square miles in size. Twenty-five square miles are inside Weatherford's city limits, 75 square miles are in ESD #3, which includes a large portion of the City's ETJ.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Department has 60 staff members and is organized in three divisions: Administration, Operations, and Prevention. Since the Fire Department is a 24-hour operation, three shifts of personnel are required for each station and each fire apparatus. For this reason, staffing (with 15 personnel per day) is the most significant cost of any fire station. To operate the City's four stations, the Operations Division requires a 54-member staff. The other divisions in the Fire Department support the work of Operations and provide public education and other services related to fire prevention.



CITY OF WEATHERFORD FIRE DISTRICTS

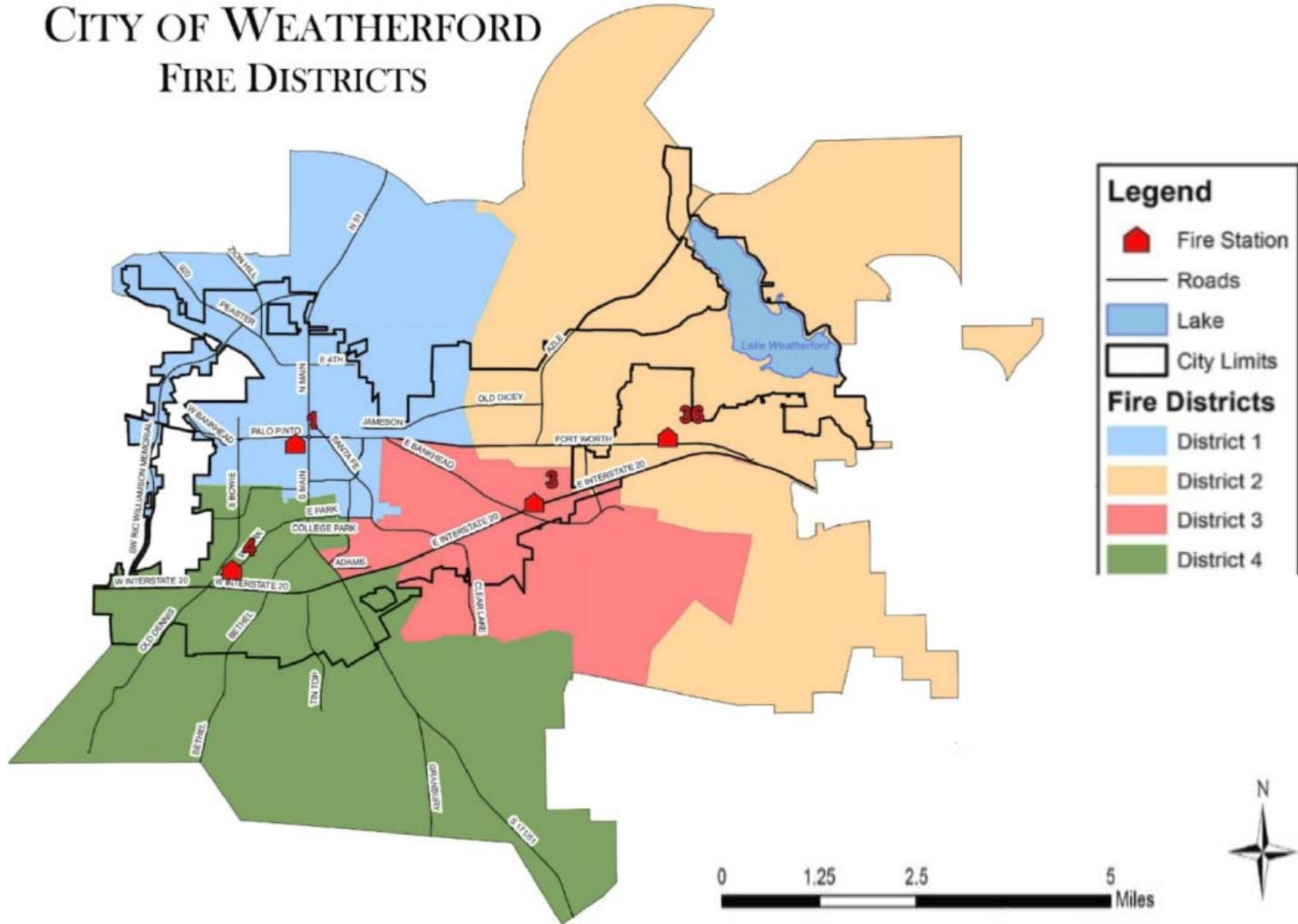


Exhibit 9.1 – Insert URL at future

SERVICE PROVISION

In years past, fire departments primarily put out fires. Today, fire departments handle a variety of alarms and emergency situations. As Exhibit 9.2 shows, medical incidents and rescues comprise 60% of the 5,000 emergency calls the department handles. Due to advances in building and fire codes and regular inspections by Fire Marshals, fires are now the smallest percentage of alarms the Weatherford Fire Department responds to, less than 3%.

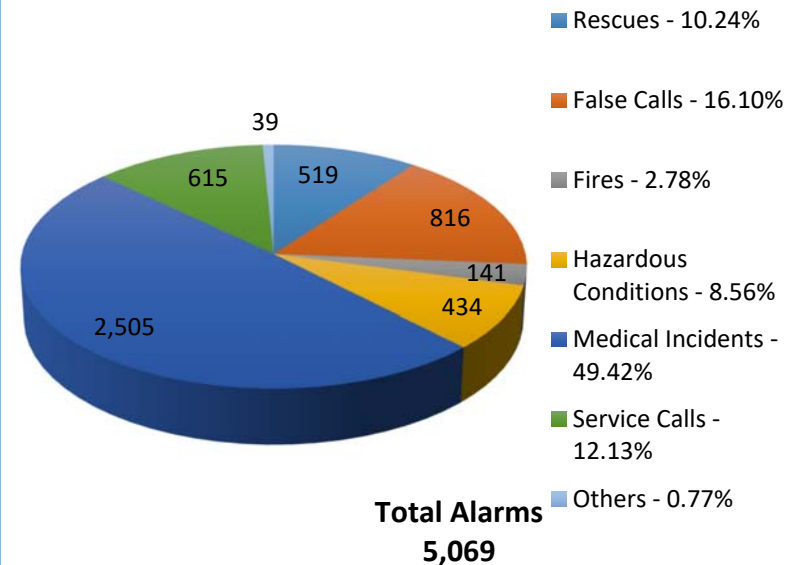
STANDARDS FOR SERVICE

Two measures are most commonly used to evaluate the quality of fire protection services provided in a community. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating reflects the capabilities and resources of a department, while response time measures how quickly a fire department can address an emergency situation. Weatherford performs well on both measures.

INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE (ISO) PPC

The ISO is a national rating service of Fire and Emergency capabilities. The Public Protection Classification (PPC) from the ISO determines the fire insurance rates for property owners and the lower the rating for the area, the greater the

Exhibit 9.2 2016 Type of Alarms



potential for savings on insurance. The City of Weatherford in 2016 was given a PPC rating of two (2). The rating is based on factors including staffing levels, training programs, number of fire stations, types of vehicles dispatched to fires, equipment carried on vehicles, fire prevention efforts (i.e. investigation, inspection, and fire safety education), fire hydrant maintenance, available water supply, and the ability of the

911 communications center to answer and dispatch calls. An ISO rating of 2 puts Weatherford in the top 5% of Texas jurisdictions analyzed, in terms of its protection of property. Properties in the City's ETJ have an ISO rating of 2Y due to a lack of fire hydrants and water systems.

RESPONSE TIMES

The time it takes to respond to a call for assistance includes three distinct components: call processing time, turnout time, and travel time. Call processing time is the time it takes for a dispatcher to handle the call, input it into the dispatch software and notify the appropriate fire station(s). Turnout time is measured from the time when a fire station receives an alarm until the time a unit is enroute to the emergency. Travel time is the time it takes a unit from the time it leaves the fire station until it reaches the emergency scene.

National standards recommend a one-minute call processing time, a one-minute turnout time, and four-minute travel times on 90% of emergency incidents, for a total response time goal of 6 minutes. It is the goal of the Fire Department to meet these standards and, as Exhibit 9.3 shows, the averages for most of the Weatherford Department meet or exceed this goal. While the department can improve processing and turnout time through improved procedures,

equipment and technology, travel time is dependent on the distance to the emergency scene and the traffic congestion along the way. This is a challenge in our growing community with newly annexed areas.

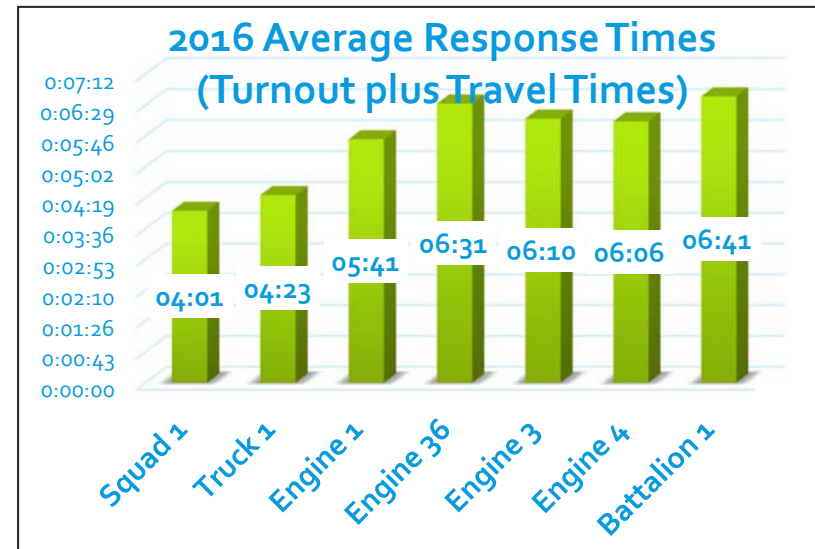


Exhibit 9.3 – Average Response Times

RESPONDING TO FUTURE PLANNED GROWTH

The only solution is to strategically locate fire stations in advance of growth. The biggest expense of a new fire station is not the building but equipping it with new engines costing hundreds of thousands of dollars and then manning it with shifts of personnel 24 hours a day.



Locating and relocating fire stations to maximize coverage/response times is a fiscally responsible method to reduce the impact on taxpayers. City annexations and new developments (residential and commercial) in all cities create the need for additional resources, and decisions to annex or approve development must consider the costs of increased service demand. Planning for growth helps the Fire Department anticipate and expand its services in a fiscally responsible matter. At this time, the department anticipates the need for these additional resources to respond to planned growth:

- In the near future, the Fire Department will need to add a second company to keep pace with the increasing emergency incidents in the area served by our busiest fire station, Fire Station 1.
- To serve the future growth expected along the Ric Williamson Loop and further north, the Fire Department will eventually need a new fire station on the City's north side.
- The fire department will require additional resources and a possible fire station to serve a future airport if one is constructed. The extent will depend upon the location and type of airport operated.
- Also, although it is important to add firefighters and fire stations to keep up with service demands and

response time standards, it is equally important to support the expanding firefighting force with logistical and administrative personnel and resources.

Additional staff, including a second Assistant Fire Chief, multiple Fire Inspectors, a dedicated Training Officer and a full time Fire Apparatus Mechanic position will need to be added to keep up with our growing needs.

The strategic deployment of firefighting equipment and vehicles with the appropriate number of firefighters will continue to be a demanding and expensive undertaking, particularly as the City continues to grow.



FIRE PROTECTION POLICIES

- PS4. Weatherford will continue to deploy its fire department assets to achieve established service level standards and serve the community as effectively as possible given available resources.
- PS5. The Fire Department will use its own facility and resource planning processes to identify the investments and resources needed to meet future fire service demands generated by the pattern of development anticipated by the General Plan and Place Type Diagram.
- PS6. Weatherford will not extend fire protection to areas outside the current Fire Service Area unless the areas are annexed to into the City or there is a compelling benefit to the City of Weatherford and its taxpayers to do so.
- PS7. The Fire Department will participate with other City departments in establishing appropriate design guidelines and standards for development, redevelopment and adaptive reuse of existing buildings so Weatherford's future growth creates neighborhoods and business areas that are safe, distinctive, respectful of history and resilient.

- PS8. The Fire Department will periodically evaluate its station, staff expertise, equipment and other resources in light of the mix of calls being received and any changes in the demographic characteristics of the community it serves.

FIRE PROTECTION ACTIONS AND INVESTMENTS (OVERALL PUBLIC SAFETY AT END OF CHAPTER)

The following actions are a general summary of the Fire Department's plans and their key projects, actions and investments. Some of those actions are noted as the Department's response to the growth plans and place types contained in this general plan and are color coded as either **Short Term** or **Long Term**. All others are important to the Department. This list is not all-inclusive, and the reader is encouraged to contact the Department or refer to the documents listed below.

Action 9.30 Fire Station Plan. Review and update the plan for future fire station locations and coverage

See Action 9.06 New Public Safety Facility. Plan for a new Public Safety Facility that could include Police, Fire, Emergency Management and Municipal Court

(See "PUBLIC SAFETY POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION" at end of chapter for Overall Public Safety Policies and Actions)



FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2017

Responsible Department Fire Department 817.598. 4282 prust@weatherfordtx.gov
Web Page <http://tx-weatherford2.civicplus.com/24/Fire-Department>

FULL ELECTRONIC COPY OF PLANS AND DOCUMENTS SUMMARIZED IN THIS CHAPTER:

2015 Fire Department Annual Report <http://tx-weatherford2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/11183>

2017 Department History <http://tx-weatherford2.civicplus.com/447/Department-History-Cont>

PUBLIC SAFETY – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2018

The City of Weatherford's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is charged with coordinating the City of Weatherford's emergency management program. This is accomplished by developing emergency plans, offering disaster preparedness training, conducting drills and exercises, and participating in public education programs. The program operates through the four phases of emergency management in an all-hazards approach in order to properly prepare for disasters, coordinate response efforts, provide timely recovery assistance, and implement projects to prevent and/or lessen the impacts of disasters. OEM works with numerous public, private, and nonprofit agencies in order to help ensure the City of Weatherford is a safe place to live, work, and visit.



The Office of Emergency Management plays a role in accomplishing the vision of this General Plan because of their contributions to the safety of the community in the face of emergencies. Development in hazardous areas can directly impact safety and the demands for response by Emergency Management. Also, Emergency Management contributes to the efforts to make Weatherford more resilient in response to unexpected events.

PLANNING FOR FUTURE GROWTH

City annexations and new developments (residential and commercial) in all cities create the need for additional resources, and new demands on local government and public safety agencies. It is the role of the Office of Emergency Management in any large-scale event or disaster to help coordinate and facilitate those actions and needs. To help meet this role Weatherford's department will need these future resources to help respond to future growth.

- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as part of the future Public Safety Center.
- Outdoor Warning System

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POLICIES

- PS9. Weatherford will use its emergency management resources to meet community needs during a disaster or other emergency.
- PS10. The Office of Emergency Management will use the 'best practice' tools and techniques available to it to communicate with Weatherford residents, businesses and property owners, and to educate them to be prepared and ready to respond in an emergency. Special attention will be given to those who have fewer of their own resources to prepare for emergencies, such as lower-income residents and the elderly.
- PS11. The emergency management initiatives will support the increasing resilience of the City and the Weatherford community.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACTIONS/INVESTMENTS (OVERALL PUBLIC SAFETY AT END OF CHAPTER)

The following actions are a general summary of Emergency Management’s plans and their key projects, actions and investments. Some of those actions are noted as the Department’s response to the growth plans and place types contained in this general plan and are color coded as either **Short Term** or **Long Term**. All others are important to the Department. This list is not all-inclusive, and the reader is encouraged to contact the Department or refer to the documents listed below.

Action 9.40 Disaster Response and Recovery Plan.
Develop and implement a Weatherford Disaster Response and Recovery Plan, including training and implementation tools to be ready in the case of an emergency.



CONTACT INFORMATION

CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2018

Responsible Department	Office of Emergency Management	817.598.4040	cmulloy@weatherfordtx.gov
Web Page		http://ci.weatherford.tx.us/1666/Emergency-Management	

FULL ELECTRONIC COPY OF PLANS AND DOCUMENTS SUMMARIZED IN THIS CHAPTER:

FEMA Public Assistance <https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit>

PUBLIC SAFETY – MEDICAL

CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2018

The health and safety of the Weatherford community is the concern of other organizations in addition to the City. The Weatherford Regional Medical Center has been the primary provider of hospital services to the community. Recently acquired by Medical City, and now known as Medical City Weatherford, it is a 103-bed, all private-room hospital and a network of medical clinics serving Parker County. Partnerships between the City and private and non-profit health care providers will help meet the needs of

Weatherford's current and future residents. This section with the Medical information will be inserted in the future by others reflecting the Hospital District and the Medical Center plans.

Action 9.50 Medical Provider Plans. Develop and insert summaries of the future plans of the Hospital District, Weatherford Regional Medical Center and other medical providers in Weatherford.

PUBLIC SAFETY - CODE ENFORCEMENT

CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2018

Code Enforcement is responsible for preserving the quality and value of public and private property, and maintaining a high standard of living by eliminating conditions that threaten the health, safety, life and general welfare of the public. It is often misunderstood as to its positive impacts on preserving and upgrading neighborhoods and commercial areas.

OVERVIEW

Code Enforcement enforces those municipal codes that address properties with conditions affecting public health and safety including Building Condition, Property Maintenance, Public Nuisance and Zoning Ordinances. It is most often

known as the division that enforces regulations related to rubbish and garbage, parking on the grass, high weeds and grass, household items in the yard or porch, illegal signs including garage sale signs, and inoperable vehicles on private property. While enforcement of these regulations helps preserve the character of neighborhoods, a far more important duty is the





enforcement of codes that address illegal use of property, dangerous/abandoned buildings and substandard rental properties. It also coordinates with other enforcement agencies such as the Police Department, Fire Marshall, Animal Control and Child Protective/Adult Protective Services. Currently the Code

Enforcement Division had two Code Enforcement Officers (CEOs). In the approval of the 2017-18 budget, a third officer was added as upgraded, city wide code enforcement is a high priority of the City Council. The Code Enforcement Division is located at the Old City Hall, 119 Palo Pinto.

The CEO's patrol the city 7 days a week to pro-actively enforce ordinances. They spend the majority of their time, however, responding to requests for action from citizens.

Complaints can be phone calls, emails or more recently, photographs of violations and/or complaints sent in with the 311 app. (<https://ci.weatherford.tx.us/1548/Landing-Page-for-311-Service-Request> for more information). In 2016 the officers visited with 2,267 citizens and opened 622 cases. While the rights of adjacent property owners are important, there are legal standards to protect property owners that have violations. Code enforcement officers can only perform certain activities and investigations without an actual search warrant being issued. An extensive process is utilized to obtain compliance of a violation. First a warning notice is issued to the owner of the property as well as any tenants. Then, if there is no voluntary compliance, a second warning notice. Finally, if there is still no compliance, actual citations are issued, with each day of non-compliance being a separate violation. By the time a citation reaches municipal court, it can take over 45 days to obtain compliance, which is extremely frustrating to adjacent property owners. A computerized database is kept of code enforcement violations to monitor repeat offenders. In the past, repeat offenders took advantage of the process with each case treated as a new case. In order to speed up compliance, Code Enforcement is now going directly to citations where there is a history of violation.



SUBSTANDARD AND ABANDONED STRUCTURES

The City has been aggressively amending its procedures to deal with a backlog of identified substandard and abandoned structures. A very powerful but virtually unknown board is the Building and Standards Commission which oversees the Code Enforcement efforts to address the substandard buildings issue. They have the authority to:

- order the immediate removal of persons or property on private property if it is a violation of ordinances
- order the repair, within a fixed period, of buildings found to be in violation of an ordinance.
- declare a building substandard and order action to remedy, alleviate, or remove any substandard building found to exist;
- issue orders/directives to any peace officer of the state, including a sheriff, constable or the chief of police to enforce and carry out their lawful orders; and
- determine the amount and duration of civil penalties as provided in Texas Local Government Code.

Working with the Building Standards Commission, Code Enforcement demolished or forced the remodeling of twenty structures such as the ones pictured. Two problems complicate the process. The first is dealing with single family



residential property owners that may not have the resources or knowledge to improve the property or may have psychological issues such as hoarding or physical issues due to old age or infirmities. Unlike substandard rental properties, no amount of citations will resolve the problem so officers work with various social agencies such as the Center of Hope or churches to try to improve the situation.



A second issue are abandoned properties or properties that have poor deed records/conflicts so no ownership can be established. There is a long, complicated process.

CODE ENFORCEMENT POLICIES

PS12. Weatherford's Code Enforcement efforts will emphasize enforcement against those violators that are having a blighting effect on adjacent property owners, entire neighborhoods and commercial areas.

PS13. While still addressing complaints turned in by citizens, it will prioritize its limited resources and efforts on a "worst-

first" basis to address those code enforcement with large negative impacts.

PS14. It is the policy of Code Enforcement to utilize and coordinate as much as possible with other departments, agencies and public assistance programs to enhance its efforts and impacts.

PS15. Code Enforcement will treat rental properties and absentee owned properties differently than single family owner occupied properties. The former are businesses and have a responsibility to be good corporate citizens of the city so the codes will be actively enforced against significant violators. Homeowner properties, at times, will not have the means or the ability due to age, disability or financial condition to address their issues and Code Enforcement will work with them to find alternative solutions.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND INVESTMENTS (OVERALL PUBLIC SAFETY AT END OF CHAPTER)

The following actions are a general summary of Code Enforcement's plans and their key projects, actions and investments. Some of those actions are noted as the Department's response to the



growth plans and place types contained in this general plan and are color coded as either **Short Term** or **Long Term**. All others are important to the Department. This list is not all-inclusive, and the reader is encouraged to contact the Department or refer to the documents listed below.

Action 9.60 Increased Code Enforcement. Add needed personnel, equipment and software sufficient to protect neighborhoods and commercial districts from blighting influences such as dilapidated abandoned buildings, substandard rental properties and accumulated trash thereby implementing one of the major goals of the General Plan (Also see 9.61, 9.62, 9.63, and 9.64).

Action 9.61 Dilapidated or Abandoned Structures. Develop a database of the numerous dilapidated and abandoned structures, and working with the Building Standard's Commission, prioritize their removal or remediation.

Action 9.62 Properties without Owners or Clear Title. Investigate using all legal means possible, including

foreclosure for tax liens, to clear up ownership and title problems of substandard and dilapidated properties so they can be remediated, sold and redeveloped to stabilize neighborhoods, the downtown and other commercial areas.

Action 9.63 Substandard Rental Properties. Develop a list of seriously substandard rental properties and by flagging those accounts, hold the transfer of utilities or new occupancy requests until the property meets the minimum building, housing and property maintenance codes.

Action 9.64 Substandard Owner-Occupied Properties. Set up an umbrella committee to coordinate and make available the resources of the City, Habitat for Humanity, churches, social agencies and other outside agencies to help substandard homeowners without the ability or the means improve their property. Included would be resurrection of Weatherford Paint and Clean Days in the spring and fall when the entire community comes together to rehabilitate a select number of deserving residences to restore the neighborhood and implement this General Plan.

CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2018

Responsible Department Development & Neighborhood Services/Code Enforcement 817.598. 4349 rlaw@weatherfordtx.gov
Web Page <https://ci.weatherford.tx.us/445/Code-Enforcement>

FULL ELECTRONIC COPY OF PLANS AND DOCUMENTS SUMMARIZED IN THIS CHAPTER:

2017 Annual Report

Insert URL at future date



PUBLIC SAFETY - ANIMAL SERVICES

CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2018

The Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter (WPCAS) is a municipal animal shelter operated by the City of Weatherford Municipal and Community Services department / Animal Services division. It works with the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee on serving a quickly expanding human population estimated at 130,000 people with their animal issues. As the City and County population increases, so does the number of animals, pets and conflicts between residents and wildlife.

OVERVIEW

The WPCAS cares for the stray and unwanted animals for the City of Weatherford, Hudson Oaks, Springtown, Aledo, Willow Park and Parker County, as well as to protect the public health of the community and assure humane care. The Animal Services division helps reunite lost pets and find new homes for homeless pets by adoption. The division also helps the community properly care for their pets by following and enforcing the animal related ordinances and laws, educating the public regarding responsible pet ownership and proper animal interactions, as well as, help to control the pet overpopulation problem. Animal Services also encourages community participation in solving the homeless pet population by working with schools, businesses, clubs and churches to raise donations and help educate others.

In 2000 an interlocal agreement was signed between the City of Weatherford and Parker County to serve the unincorporated areas and residents of the county. The shelter expanded its area of service in 2011 with an agreement to serve Hudson Oaks, and again in 2014 adding the areas of Aledo and Willow Park to the service area.



In 2012 the shelter took in 4,289 unwanted/stray pets in Weatherford, Parker County and Hudson Oaks with a yearly live release rate of 37% (total number of animals leaving the shelter alive, compared to euthanasia). The shelter has drastically improved that number over the years, despite increasing the number of animals coming into the shelter. In the past fiscal year (2016) the shelter took in a total of 5,564 animals and maintained a live release rate of 94% (a 57% increase from 2012) showing the results of the progressive efforts of the shelter staff,



volunteers and the community working together to place animals. From 2012 to 2016 there has been a 30% increase in the amount of animals taken in by the shelter, with the largest percent increase hitting an all-time high of 13% for 2015. This reflects the recent and rapid growth of Weatherford and Parker County. Continual, progressive efforts are made to maintain a live release rate of 90% or higher using innovative methods to increase adoptions as well as the return to owner rate. Some of these innovative methods include a barn cat program and feral cat trap neuter and release. Studies have shown that by putting these cats back into the population, they keep rats and other vermin down and reduce the proliferation rate of unwanted animals and feral cats.

In addition to the shelter's adoption program, a public safety aspect of Animal Services that is often overlooked is protecting the public and their animals from other diseased and aggressive animals. They remove gravely injured animals and investigate cases of animal cruelty, oftentimes confiscating abused animals. Finally, they are directly involved in addressing overpopulation of unwanted/abandoned pets by encouraging spaying and neutering and patrolling for loose animals.

STAFFING

The Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter (WPCAS) falls under the purview the Municipal and Community Services department and is a joint program between the City of Weatherford and Parker County. The City of Weatherford has



one contract veterinarian, 11 employees to run the shelter operations, and three animal control officers for the city of Weatherford, totaling 15 employees. There are also five animal control officers strictly for the Parker County limits, for a combined total of 20 employees to maintain the WPCAS operations.

In addition to staff, the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter started a volunteer program in 2012 that has grown to over 200 registered volunteers. The volunteer program drastically helps the shelter advertise place hard to adopt animals in homes, rescues, or even being returned to their owners. Volunteers help with many areas of the shelter and the shelter do more than what it otherwise would be able to do.

FACILITIES

The existing shelter is located on almost 40 acres at 403 Hickory Lane just off south Bankhead. The current facility does not allow for Parker County's rapid population growth, nor does it meet current industry or animal welfare standards. As a result of a 2014 Needs Assessment, the Shelter administration developed a multi-phase Strategic Master Plan for construction, renovation and expansion of the Shelter facilities (Exhibit 9.3). The Master Plan will allow for cohesive and sensible development of the campus over time. The shelter is in the process of completing a capital campaign (Giving Second Chances) to raise the funds needed for expansion and updating of the shelter to properly care for the population of animals served. The \$1.65 million campaign will be used to fund the expansion of the shelter and improvements needed for the shelter, such as the addition of

a Medical Treatment/Animal Care Center, Spay and Neuter Funds, Medical Isolation Center, Renovations of the Adoption Centers, Intake and Processing Building/Sallyport, Animal Play Yards and Enrichment Programs, Livestock Barns and Relocation, Feral Cat/Trap-Neuter-Release Funds, Improved Roads and Grounds, and Multipurpose Classrooms. There is an additional challenge goal of \$950,000 which could ultimately develop a fund of \$2.6 million to accomplish even more. This expansion and shelter improvements will allow for better standards of care as well as better support the rapid population growth of Parker County. For more information, go to <http://www.weatherfordtx.gov/1813/Capital-Campaign>





ANIMAL SERVICE'S POLICIES

PS16. Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter will maintain a 90% (or higher) Live Release Rate (animals coming into the shelter vs. those that leave alive). The remaining 10% will be animals that are too ill, gravely injured, or behaviorally challenged.

PS17. Animal Services and volunteers will promote responsible pet ownership, as defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association including spaying, neutering, tagging, microchipping and vaccinations.

PS18. Weatherford will support a dynamic pet community ensuring that pet resources are provided such as; dog parks, pet friendly restaurants, pet friendly walking trails and accessibility to veterinary services to all by facilitating low-cost outreach programs and events that support the whole community

PS19. Weatherford will support community wide understanding of co-existing with wildlife and feral cat population by providing multiple avenues of outreach, education, and support (such as Trap-Neuter-Release programs).

ANIMAL SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIONS AND INVESTMENTS (OVERALL ACTIONS AT END OF CHAPTER)

The following actions are a general summary of Animal Service's plans and their key projects, actions and investments. Some of those actions are noted as the Department's response to the growth plans and place types contained in this general plan and are color coded as either **Short Term** or **Long Term**. All others are important to the Department. This list is not all-inclusive, and the reader is encouraged to contact the Department or refer to the documents listed below.

Action 9.71 Giving Second Chances Campaign. Continue with campaign to raise funds for shelter expansion, including pursuing estate/planned gifts.

Action 9.72 Insert others as developed over the next 5 years.



ANIMAL SERVICES CONTACT INFORMATION

CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2018

Responsible Department Municipal and Community Services – Animal Services 817.598.4111 animals@weatherfordtx.gov
Web Page <http://www.weatherfordtx.gov/15/Animal-Shelter>

FULL ELECTRONIC COPY OF PLANS AND DOCUMENTS SUMMARIZED IN THIS CHAPTER:

2017 Animal Services Department Annual Report
2017 Expansion Plan
2014 Shelter Needs Assessment

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OVERALL PUBLIC SAFETY POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

PUBLIC SAFETY ACTIONS OR INVESTMENTS

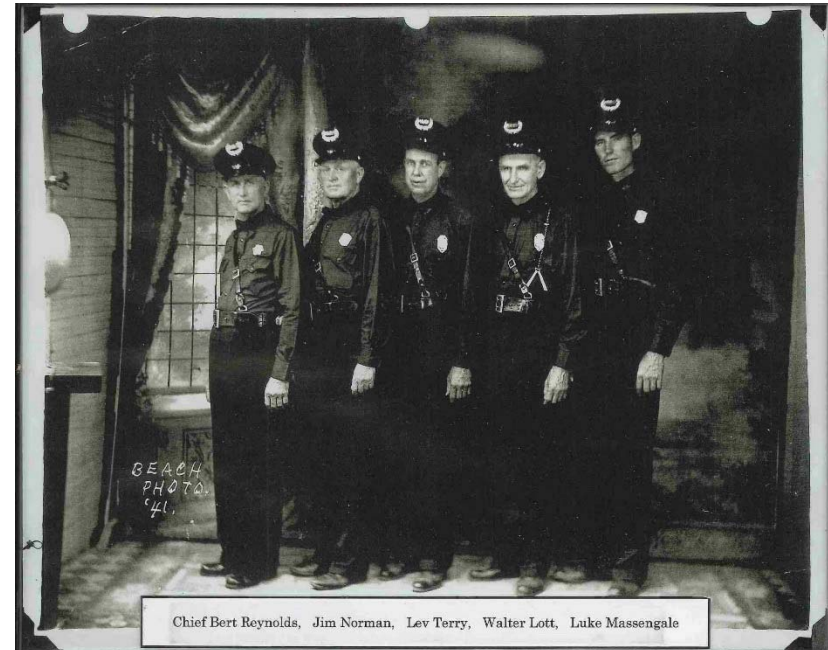
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Action 9.01 Refine for General Plan Consistency. Review and revise the plans for public safety facilities and services as necessary to ensure consistency with the General Plan and support future development that achieves this vision of Weatherford's future.

Action 9.02 Service Demand Analysis. Conduct analysis of public safety service demands based on this General Plan and its Place Type Diagram, and use this analysis to evaluate the fiscal impacts of growth on public safety services.

Action 9.03 Service Concurrence. Develop plans or criteria for phasing of public safety service expansions so they are

available when needed by growth and are funded and phased to be fiscally responsible.



Action 9.04 Public Safety Planning Criteria. Develop a set of criteria to be used in evaluating the costs to serve potential private developments or annexations; provide the conclusions from this evaluation as part of the public consideration of these proposals.

Action 9.05 Public Safety in the 2050 ETJ. When a 2050 ETJ has been established, review plans for public safety facilities and services and update them as appropriate to provide service to the

development planned in the 2050 ETJ and consistent with the expected phasing of development and other City infrastructure.

Action 9.06 New Public Safety Facility. Plan for a new Public Safety Facility that could include Police, Fire, Emergency Management and Municipal Court

Action 9.07 Public Safety Training Center Partners. Explore/assess the possibility of partnering with Weatherford College, Weatherford ISD, Weatherford Fire, and other public safety entities to construct a public safety training center

Action 9.08 Radio System Expansion. Assess the need to continue with the public safety radio system expansion

Action 9.09 Centralizing Dispatch. Explore and assess the possibility of centralizing dispatch for police, fire, emergency medical and serving as a regional partner with other jurisdictions

Action 9.10 Other Public Safety Services and the General Plan. Develop appropriate additional information and policies on the other functions that contribute to public health and amend this plan in the future to include them

